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The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

d 1. (currently amended) An absorbent article (40) comprising a fluid permeable cover (62), a liquid impermeable baffle (64) and an absorbent (66) situated between the cover and the baffle, the absorbent article being configured to provide a labial pad for disposition within the vestibule of a female wearer, the absorbent article further comprising a principal longitudinal axis, a principal transverse axis, a body-facing surface, a surface opposed to the body-facing surface, a length, a width, a thickness, first (76) and second (78) longitudinally spaced apart transverse end areas, first (80) and second (82) spaced apart longitudinal sides, the longitudinal sides ranging between the transverse end areas and collectively defining a periphery of the absorbent article, and at least one tab (94) extending outward from the periphery of each of said first and second transverse end areas (76, 78); wherein

said article is shorter along its principal transverse axis than along its principal longitudinal axis;

said article is configured to be folded along an axis positioned parallel to said ~~principal longitudinal axis or~~ principal transverse axis prior to disposition within the vestibule of the female wearer, the folding providing a recess that protects the wearer's finger(s) from soiling when the article is disposed in the vestibule;

said absorbent (66) has a maximum width (W_{max}) which is no greater than about 70 mm;

said absorbent (66) has a maximum length (L_{max}) which is no greater than about 100 mm;

each said tab (94) has a length (l) which is no greater than about 70 mm, and no greater than about 100 % of the maximum width (W_{max}) of the absorbent (66);

each said tab (94) has a width (w) which is no greater than about 50 mm; and

each said tab thereby has sufficient dimensions to allow a user to grasp the tabs and fold said article along the ~~axis positioned parallel to said principal longitudinal axis or~~ principal transverse axis prior to disposition within the vestibule of the female wearer.

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2. (canceled)

3. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the tab comprises a fluid permeable material.

4. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the fluid permeable cover extends outward from the periphery of at least one transverse end area to form the tab.

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5. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the tab comprises an absorbent material.

6. (original) The absorbent article of claim 5, wherein the absorbent material of the tab further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

7. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent extends outward from the periphery of at least one transverse end area to form the tab.

8. (original) The absorbent article of claim 7, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

C | 9. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the tab comprises a liquid impermeable material.

10. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the liquid impermeable baffle extends outward from the periphery of at least one transverse end area to form the tab.

11. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

12. (currently amended) An absorbent article (40) comprising a liquid impermeable baffle (64) and an absorbent (66), the absorbent article being configured for disposition within the vestibule of a female wearer, the absorbent article further comprising a principal longitudinal axis, a principal transverse axis, a body-facing surface, a surface opposed to the body-facing surface, a length, a width, a thickness, first (76) and second (78) longitudinally spaced apart transverse end areas, first (80) and second (82) spaced apart longitudinal sides, the longitudinal sides ranging between the transverse end areas and collectively defining a periphery of the absorbent article, and at least one tab (94) extending outward from the periphery of each of said first and second transverse end areas (76, 78); wherein
said article is shorter along its principal transverse axis than along its principal longitudinal axis;
said article is configured to be folded along an axis positioned parallel to said ~~principal longitudinal~~
~~axis of~~ principal transverse axis prior to disposition within the vestibule of the female wearer,

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the folding providing a recess that protects the wearer's finger(s) from soiling when the article is disposed in the vestibule;
said absorbent (66) has a maximum width (W_{max}) which is no greater than about 70 mm;
said absorbent (66) has a maximum length (L_{max}) which is no greater than about 100 mm;
each said tab (94) has a length (ℓ) which is no greater than about 70 mm, and no greater than about 100 % of the maximum width (W_{max}) of the absorbent (66);
each said tab (94) has a width (w) which is no greater than about 50 mm; and
each said tab thereby has sufficient dimensions to allow a user to grasp the tabs and fold said article along the axis positioned parallel to said ~~principal longitudinal axis or principal transverse axis~~ prior to disposition within the vestibule of the female wearer.

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13. (canceled)

d 14. (original) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the tab comprises a fluid permeable material.

15. (original) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the absorbent article further comprises a fluid permeable cover (62).

16. (original) The absorbent article of claim 15, wherein the fluid permeable cover extends outward from the periphery at least one transverse end area to form the tab.

17. (original) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the tab comprises an absorbent material.

18. (original) The absorbent article of claim 17, wherein the absorbent material of the tab further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

19. (original) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the absorbent extends outward from the periphery of at least one transverse end area to form the tab.

20. (original) The absorbent article of claim 19, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

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21. (original) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the tab comprises a liquid impermeable material.

22. (original) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the liquid impermeable baffle extends outward from the periphery of at least one transverse end area to form the tab.

23. (original) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

24. (currently amended) An absorbent article (40) comprising an absorbent (66), the absorbent article being configured for disposition within the vestibule of a female wearer, the absorbent article further having a principal longitudinal axis, a principal transverse axis, a body-facing surface, a surface opposed to the body-facing surface, a length, a width, a thickness, first (76) and second (78) longitudinally spaced apart transverse end areas, first (80) and second (82) spaced apart longitudinal sides, the longitudinal sides ranging between the transverse end areas and collectively defining a periphery of the absorbent article, and at least one tab (94) extending outward from the periphery each of said first and second transverse end areas (76, 78); wherein said article is shorter along its principal transverse axis than along its principal longitudinal axis; said article is configured to be folded along an axis positioned parallel to said ~~principal longitudinal axis or~~ principal transverse axis prior to disposition within the vestibule of the female wearer, the folding providing a recess that protects the wearer's finger(s) from soiling when the article is disposed in the vestibule; said absorbent (66) has a maximum width (W_{max}) which is no greater than about 70 mm; said absorbent (66) has a maximum length (L_{max}) which is no greater than about 100 mm; each said tab (94) has a length (l) which is no greater than about 70 mm, and no greater than about 100 % of the maximum width (W_{max}) of the absorbent (66); each said tab (94) has a width (w) which is no greater than about 50 mm; and each said tab thereby has sufficient dimensions to allow a user to grasp the tabs and fold said article along the axis positioned parallel to said ~~principal longitudinal axis or~~ principal transverse axis prior to disposition within the vestibule of the female wearer.

25. (canceled)

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26. (original) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the tab comprises a fluid permeable material.

27. (original) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the absorbent further comprises a fluid permeable cover (62).

28. (original) The absorbent article of claim 27, wherein the fluid permeable cover extends outward from the periphery of at least one transverse end area to form the tab.

29. (original) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the tab comprises an absorbent material.

d 30. (original) The absorbent article of claim 29, wherein the absorbent material of the tab further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

31. (original) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the absorbent extends outward from the periphery of at least one transverse end area to form the tab.

32. (original) The absorbent article of claim 31, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

33. (original) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the tab comprises a liquid impermeable material.

34. (original) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the absorbent article further comprises a liquid impermeable baffle (64).

35. (original) The absorbent article of claim 34, wherein the liquid impermeable baffle extends outward from the periphery of at least one transverse end area to form the tab.

36. (original) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.